



## Envision Arlington Diversity Task Group

Date: February 8, 2024

Time: 6:45 pm - 9:00 pm (official meeting start at 7PM)

Remote Participation, via Zoom

**Attendees:** Elizabeth Dray, Lenard Diggins, Stephanie Ettinger de Cuba, Katell Guellec, Mona Mandal, Louise Popkin, Laurie Key, Michele Oshima

**Facilitator:** Stephanie Ettinger de Cuba

**Minutes:** Katell Guellec

### Minutes

1. Welcome
2. Land Acknowledgement
3. January Minutes approved; one abstention of member who wasn't there.
4. Continued filling out the facilitator and minute taker spots for the first half of 2024. We will continue to ask for volunteers at future meetings.

Meeting	Facilitator	Minute Taker
February 8th, 2024	Stephanie	Katell
March 14th, 2024	Lynette	Elizabeth
April 11th, 2024	Sarah	
May 9	Elizabeth	
June 13		
July 11*		

## 5. Building coalition with other groups - continued discussion

- Rebecca will invite a speaker for March meeting from MBTA Communities Coalition.
- Susan Lees could be a possible future speaker, from Mothers Out Front. But there were no concrete actions or events discussed at the last meeting.
- Whether it is this group or others, like the Civic Engagement Group (CEG), it doesn't have to be a large-scale collaboration; it could be boosting each other's events and co-sponsoring as a way to have more people exposed to DTG as an entity. As long as we share the same mission/values.
- Easier when there are overlapping members, as with CEG. If we are serious, we would want a working group. And it can be a gradual process of selecting a couple of groups to start with.
- A suggestion was made to have someone talk about the affordable housing overlay, as it aligns with our mission. We would want to be sure they are comfortable, as zoning issues can be quite contentious. Could be Steve Revilak or someone from the Affordable Housing Trust. Len clarified that it likely won't come up at the next Town Meeting so this gives DTG more time to get involved and educate our members. Other town groups also may join these efforts.
- We also can reach out to other groups and other communities to build allies in other municipalities in our region. It doesn't always have to be Arlington-focused. For example, we can learn from Cambridge that has an overlay.
- Civilian Police Advisory Commission: There hasn't been any movement on getting this group going. Len can check in with the Town Manager this week for any additional information. Attendees supported DTG writing a letter on this to the Town Manager after hearing back from Len. Gather more information from other groups with appointees: Laurie Key will ask HRC co-chairs; Mona will talk with a member of the Disability Commission; Elizabeth will discuss with our appointee, Reverend Erica. Elizabeth and Stephanie can work on a letter, and Louise and Michele can do some editing. Information gathered will inform content and whether other groups will co-sign.

## 6. Updates on Town events, news, etc.

- "Building Welcoming Communities," Saturday, February 10th, 11am-2pm, Arlington High School. This event is presented by the Arlington Human Rights Commission and the Arlington Rainbow Commission.
- The Social Justice Book Club at Robbins Library and via Zoom for March 26th, 2024 (7:00pm-8:00pm) book selection: the 2024 Arlington Reads Together selection, *Solito*, by Javier Zamora.
  - Per Elizabeth, there will be several related events, e.g., food, documentary, teen focus. These will be publicized soon.
- Arlington for Palestine met with Rep. Clark, and the language of the petition has been changed a little. Goal is to get 300 signatures before sharing it with Rep. Clark. Every Monday from 5-6 there is a stand-out at the corner of Mass Ave and Mystic of b/t 12-100 people. Other communities in the area have similar activities.

7. Confirm the agenda for March 2024

- Check-in: can be how you're doing or an ice breaker question; introduce new attendees
- Land acknowledgement
- Minute approval from prior meeting
- Call for additional agenda items
- Update on projects
- Promote and report back on Arlington-based programs
- Possible speaker depending on who Rebecca invites
- New business
- Agenda for next time